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CLAIMS

1. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

5 first tuning means (23) for tuning first signals including video signals when said television signal receiver (20) is in an on mode;

second tuning means (25, 42) for tuning second signals including emergency alert signals when said television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode; and

10 wherein said emergency alert function is activated if said emergency alert signals indicate an emergency event corresponding to a user selected geographical area and a user selected event type.

2. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein said
15 second tuning means (42) is included in a modem apparatus (40).

3. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).

20 4. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is external to said television signal receiver (20).

5. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 4, wherein said
25 modem apparatus (40) includes alert means (47) for providing an alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.

6. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means (47) includes a visual output element (47a).

30 7. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein said alert means (47) includes an aural output element (47b).

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8. A method (300) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

enabling a first tuner (23) to tune first signals including video signals when said television signal receiver (20) is in an on mode;

5 enabling a second tuner (25, 42) to tune second signals including emergency alert signals when said television signal receiver (20) is in said on mode and an off/standby mode; and

10 wherein said emergency alert function is activated if said emergency alert signals indicate an emergency event corresponding to a user selected geographical area and a user selected event type.

9. The method (300) of claim 8, wherein said second tuner (42) is included in a modem apparatus (40).

15 10. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is internal to said television signal receiver (20).

20 11. The method (300) of claim 9, wherein said modem apparatus (40) is external to said television signal receiver (20).

12. The method (300) of claim 11, further comprised of providing an alert output via an alert system (47) of said modem apparatus (40) when said emergency alert function is activated.

25 13. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes a visual output.

14. The method (300) of claim 12, wherein said alert output includes an aural output.

30 15. A modem apparatus (40) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

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a modulator (44) operative to modulate upstream signals provided to a network;

a demodulator (43) operative to demodulate downstream signals provided from said network, said downstream signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function;

an alert system (47) operative to provide an alert output when said emergency alert function is activated; and

wherein said emergency alert function is activated if said emergency alert signals indicate an emergency event corresponding to a user selected geographical area and a user selected event type.

16. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47) includes a visual output element (47a).

17. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said alert system (47) includes an aural output element (47b).

18. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a cable network.

19. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein said network includes a DSL network.

20. The modem apparatus (40) of claim 15, wherein:
said modem apparatus (40) is operatively coupled to an external device (20); and
said external device (20) provides a second alert output when said emergency alert function is activated.

21. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a television signal receiver (20).

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22. The modem apparatus of claim 20, wherein said external device includes a computer.

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